

very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 857, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jeremy has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Jeremy has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jeremy Allen Patania for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### U.S. TROOP READINESS, VETERANS' CARE, KATRINA RECOVERY, AND IRAQ ACCOUNTABILITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2007*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2206, the "U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Act." This legislation includes the important funding that has already passed this chamber to provide resources for servicemen and women, for military and veterans' health care, and for valuable programs like LIHEAP and SCHIP.

This bill ensures accountability. H.R. 2206 provides 3 months of funding for the war in Iraq but requires the president to report back to Congress about whether certain goals are met before the rest of the funds will be released by subsequent legislation.

It is time for the president to listen to the American people and support this reasonable legislation to help bring an end to this war.

#### STUDENT LOAN SUNSHINE ACT

**HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 14, 2007*

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, the most important goal of the Student Loan Sunshine Act is to protect students and parents and help them receive the most affordable loan possible. With that in mind, I would like to mention that recently, a number of my colleagues and I sent a letter to Secretary Spellings regarding the urgent need to reopen the national student loan database for students and parents to receive low interest consolidation loans before the rates are changed on July 1st.

Although, we fully support new and better safeguards to protect student privacy which many student loan companies advocate, it is crucial that both students and lenders have safe and secure access to this information.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOSEPH A. DART, PRESIDENT OF MASSACHUSETTS BUILDING TRADES COUNCIL, AFL-CIO

**HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 14, 2007*

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of a good friend and tremendous labor leader, Joseph A. Dart. Joe has dedicated his life to improving the lives of working men and women throughout Massachusetts.

Joining Local 257 Painter & Allied Trades in 1974, Joe's hard work and leadership skills propelled his rise through the ranks. In 1980, Joe became a Business Agent and the following year advanced to Business Manager. By 1985, Joe held the position of President of the Pioneer Valley Building Trades Council. Joe's ability to advance his union and provide the fellow members of his trade with employment exemplifies the characteristics in which all members of the Building Trades should strive.

Between 1994 and 1996, Joe added three new positions to his impressive list of accomplishments, all of which he holds to this day. In 1994, Joe became President of the Massachusetts Building Trades Council, an organization which is comprised of 72 local unions and 10 Local Building Trades Councils representing 75,000 construction trades men and women in Massachusetts. In 1995, Joe became Co-Chair of the Labor-Management Construction Safety Alliance, where he succeeded in passing the OSHA 10-Hour Law requiring all construction workers on public projects to be trained in safety. In 1996, Joe became the Executive Vice President of the Massachusetts AFL-CIO.

Throughout his career in the Building Trades, Joe has been an advocate for workers rights and fought to provide his fellow brothers and sisters of labor with fair wages and skilled training. Joe has negotiated dozens of Project Labor Agreements to guarantee good wages, hours, and working conditions on massive construction sites. These agreements have also guaranteed employers access to a skilled workforce and eliminated labor relations problems. In 1988, Joe was instrumental in defeating a ballot question, which was intended to remove Prevailing Wage Laws in the state of Massachusetts. Ten years later, Joe was essential in the passage of an amendment to the Massachusetts Payment of Wages Law, which increased penalties on employers who willfully and intentionally violated payment rights of employees.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to join with Joe's family, friends and brothers and sisters of labor to thank him for his incredible dedication and commitment to the fight for workers' rights and service to the American Labor Movement. I hope my colleagues will join me in celebrating Joe's distinguished career and wishing him good health and success in all his future endeavors.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SUZANNE LICHNER

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 14, 2007*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Suzanne Lichner, a licensed practical nurse, who is a distinguished and devoted professional in her field.

Prior to joining the nursing staff at Boulder City Hospital, Suzanne worked as an LPN in home health care and hospice care. Suzanne began her career at Boulder City Hospital in 2000 with the Skilled Nursing Facility, where she quickly demonstrated her ability, talent, dedication, and compassion towards her patients. During the past 7 years, Suzanne's strengths as a health care professional have earned her the respect of her peers and colleagues. In 2006, Suzanne transferred to the Medical/ Surgical Unit at Boulder City Hospital, where she serves as a medical surgical nurse.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Suzanne Lichner. Her passion and her love of nursing have improved the lives of countless patients in Las Vegas. I thank her for her dedication and commitment to the community and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF SIGNATURE LEARNING CENTER

**HON. BRAD ELLSWORTH**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 14, 2007*

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Signature Learning Center in Evansville for being recognized as one of the top charter schools in the nation by the Center for Education Reform (CER). The Center is one of only 53 schools to receive the National Charter School of the Year Award and was selected based on student achievement, satisfaction of parents, and its policies and programs.

The Signature Learning Center has approximately 275 students with an average class size of 20. Its students excel academically with 100 percent enrollment in advanced college preparatory courses and 100 percent graduation rate. For these reasons and others, the school was listed by Newsweek as one of the top 100 High Schools in the nation in 2006.

Signature Learning Center joins nearly 4,000 charter schools nationwide in educating over 1 million American children.

Children are our nation's greatest resource. The quality of education they receive has a direct impact on the strength of our economy, the safety of our communities, and the ability of our nation to compete in the world. The Signature Learning Center is providing children in southern Indiana with the tools they need to meet their full potential and make a difference in our world. I am proud to recognize them for their accomplishments today.